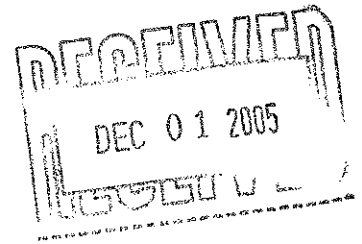




**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS** 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225  
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November 30, 2005

Bill Wallace  
DNR Northwest Regional Manager  
919 N Township Street  
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284-9384

Dear Mr. Wallace:

I understand Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be considering extending the current policy that does not allow oil and gas drilling activities in the Lake Whatcom Watershed.

As you know, Lake Whatcom is the City of Bellingham's drinking water reservoir and as such has been the subject of actions taken not only by the City itself but also by the Washington State Legislature, several state agencies, Whatcom County, the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District, and many citizen groups. The theme of these efforts is the protection of lake water quality, including the prevention of additional water quality degradation.

In this context, I am entering comment to support the continuation of the ban on leasing of lands in the Lake Whatcom Watershed for oil and gas drilling, be it for exploration or extraction. This is based on our view that both groundwater and surface water must be protected; therefore, any action that presents a risk to either must be avoided.

I understand you are well aware of the issues surrounding Lake Whatcom; notwithstanding, elaboration of this comment is available on request.

Sincerely,

Clare Fogelsong  
Environmental Resources Manager